

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated March 21, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 14-18 and objected to claim 13. Applicants respond to each of these dispositions as follows.

The Examiner rejected claim 12 on the basis of Mogil, U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0039807, in view of Davis, U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0012946. The Examiner further objected to claim 13 as depending from a rejected claim, but indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if it were rewritten in independent form to directly include all the elements of claim 12. As the Examiner suggested, with this Amendment, Applicants have now cancelled claim 12, and rewritten claim 13 to explicitly include all the elements of claim 12.

The Examiner also rejected claims 14-17, on the basis of Mogil in view of Davis, and claim 18, on the basis of Mogil in view of Davis and further in view of Ogura, U.S. Patent No. 6,698,210. Originally, claims 14-18 were dependent on claim 12. Applicants have now amended claims 14-18 to depend on claim 13. With this change, claims 14-18 are allowable for the same reason that claim 13 is allowable.

These amendments to the claims were done, not as an admission that claim 12 was not allowable as filed, but merely to expedite the present application, without going to the expense of arguing the patentability of claim 12. Any inference that claims 12 – 18 were not allowable as filed is explicitly denied.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, it now appears that the claims 1-8, 10-11, and 13-30, as amended, are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at an early date. Should the

Examiner disagree or believe that, for any other reason, direct contact with the attorney for the Applicants would advance the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

GODFREY & KAHN, S.C.

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By: /signed, Nicholas A. Kees/
Nicholas A. Kees
Reg. No. 29,552

Attorneys of Record for Applicants
GODFREY & KAHN, S.C.
780 North Water Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3590
Telephone: 414-273-3500
Facsimile: 414-273-5198
Email: nakees@gklaw.com

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